

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

a' The present application is related to the subject matter of the co-assigned, co-filed application entitled IMPROVED ARQ FOR POINT TO POINT LINKS, U.S. App. No. 09/287,212, filed April 5, 1999, \_\_\_\_\_ (~~Attorney Docket No. CISC615~~), the contents of which are herein incorporated by reference for all purposes.